



## **Joint Statement from the Community Action Board and Head Start Parents Policy Council Following the Death of George Floyd**

**June 3, 2020**

The Montgomery County Community Action Board (CAB) and Head Start Parents Policy Council are outraged and saddened by the death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement. Mr. Floyd's death is yet another devastating reminder that racism and injustice continue to plague our country and we must do everything in our power to address these social ills.

At this time, when a global pandemic is disproportionately impacting and killing low-income, minority community members, the CAB and Policy Council remain committed to changing the policies that have allowed systemic racism to exist in this country, resulting in ongoing economic inequality along racial lines. We continue to support programs that provide increased opportunities for all members of our community and we continue to advocate for policies that ensure access to high-quality early care and education, healthy food options, adequate and affordable housing, employment that offers a living wage and work supports, and healthcare for all.

Both Community Action and Head Start were born out of the Civil Rights Movement and President Johnson's War on Poverty. These programs have a proud history of fighting racism at the grassroots level, by establishing programs that help people move towards self-sufficiency and by providing high-quality early education, which improves both short-term and long-term outcomes for children and their families. All of this is achieved with the maximum participation of people most affected by poverty, including on the CAB and the Policy Council, and by engaging with people served through our agency's programs, nonprofit partners, the Community Advocacy Institute, and allied advocacy groups. Together, we pledge to speak truth to power, as we seek to assure social justice to achieve economic stability for all residents, especially those who have inherited the unfair burdens of structural racism in our society.

As we virtually join arms with our regional, state and national colleagues to oppose racism, we promise to continue to engage with leaders and public institutions to make them more accountable and transform the systems that have harmed the lives of Black people and other marginalized minorities within our communities. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

The CAB and the Policy Council recommit ourselves to combating inequality and we look forward to engaging the community in this effort.